

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Cancel Claims 8-12 without prejudice, amend Claims 1, 3, 4, and 16 as follows, and add Claims 23-29:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A damping device for movable furniture parts, ~~for example for doors or drawers~~, comprising a ~~piston or~~ plunger (3) which is slidably guided in a hollow body (4), ~~e.g. a cylinder~~, with said ~~piston or~~ plunger (3) being impinged upon by ~~spring force~~ a compression spring (8) into its pushed-out position,

wherein

the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of ~~the~~ an internal screw thread ~~and/or~~ and the ~~piston (14) or~~ plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (6) of ~~the~~ an external screw thread (6);

the stays (5, 6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other, or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or of the ~~piston or~~ plunger are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33);

~~the~~ pitch of the stays (5,6) of the screw ~~thread~~ threads is greater than ~~the~~ pitch at which self-locking occurs; and

an intermediary piece (11) is in contact with the plunger (3) and arranged to be slidably or rotatably guided in the hollow body (4) between the compression spring (8) and ~~the~~ plunger (3) ~~or piston (14)~~.

Claim 2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein said intermediary piece (11) is nonrotatably connected to said compression spring (8).

4. (Currently amended) The damping device according to claim 3, wherein the intermediary piece (11) comprises a roughened face which is supported by the plunger (3) ~~or~~ piston.

5. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein the compression spring (8) is non-rotatably held on a cover (7) which forms the bottom of the cylinder.

6. (Withdrawn) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein a section (15) of the plunger (3) rotatably engages a borehole of a piston (14), which piston (14) including said intermediary piece, comprises at least one screw-thread section or journal.

7. (Withdrawn) The damping device according to claim 6, wherein the cross-section of the journal of the plunger (13), which journal emanates from the cylinder (4), is unround, polygonal or comprises grooves or longitudinal wedges, and passes through a rim or cover of the cylinder (4) with a complementary opening.

Claims 8 to 12. Cancelled.

13. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein a high-viscosity grease is applied to surfaces of the components of the spiral-shaped screw-thread stays of the damping device which surfaces glide on each other, and/or to the flanks of said spiral-shaped screw-thread stays.

14. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein caps made of elastomeric material are placed onto the impact-absorbing plungers or cylinders.

15. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 14, wherein the caps are rotatably connected to the plungers or cylinders.

16. (Currently amended) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein said damping device is inserted in ~~the~~ a pot (20) of a hinge or is constructed in one piece with said pot (20) of ~~the~~ the ~~[[a]]~~ hinge, such that during the closing movement, the plunger (3) or cylinder comes to rest against a hinge arm or a swinging arm (22) of the hinge.

17. (Withdrawn) A damping device for movable furniture parts, for example for doors or drawers, comprising a piston or plunger which is slidably guided in a hollow body, e.g. a cylinder (50), with said piston or plunger being impinged upon by spring force into its pushed-out position,

wherein

the piston (51) comprises an axial borehole and at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (52) of the internal screw thread and a plunger (55) which is screwed into the piston (51), with said plunger (55) comprising at least one section of a spiral-shaped external stay (58);

the stays (52, 58) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other, or cams or journals of the piston or plunger are supported on a thread section of the other component;

the piston (51) or the plunger (55) is guided to be axially displaceable and rotatable, and the other component is guided in the hollow body (50) to be axially displaceable and nonrotatable;

the rotatably guided piston (51) or plunger comprises coupling devices (64) which can be coupled, in the pushed-out position of the rotatable piston or plunger, with countercoupling devices (63) of an element which is rotatable (61) in the hollow body (50) against resistance; and the pitch of the screw-thread stays exceeds the pitch at which self-locking occurs.

18. (Withdrawn) The damping device according to claim 17, wherein the plunger (55), which can be screwed into the piston (51), comprises at least one radial cam (56) or a spring which is or are guided in a longitudinal groove of the internal wall of the hollow body (50) or a bush (53) which closes off this hollow body.

19. (Withdrawn) The damping device according to claim 17, wherein the element which can be rotated in relation to a decelerating moment of torsion comprises a tubular section (61) which is rotatably held in an annular groove in the bottom region of the hollow body (50).

20. (Withdrawn) The damping device according to claim 19, wherein the tubular section (61) is embedded in the annular groove by a high-viscosity grease.

21. (Withdrawn) The damping device according to claim 19, wherein the coupling devices and countercoupling devices comprise sawtooth-like teeth (63, 64) arranged on the ring-shaped faces of the tubular section and of the tubular piston, which engage each other to form a coupling when the plunger is pushed in.

22. (Withdrawn) The damping device according to claim 19, wherein a compression spring (69) is restrained between the face of the journal (60), exposed by the annular groove, at the base of the hollow body (50) and the rear end of the plunger (55).

23. (New) A damping device for movable furniture parts, comprising a plunger (3) which is slidably guided in a hollow body (4), with said plunger (3) being impinged upon by spring force (8) into its pushed-out position, wherein

the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of an internal screw thread and the plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (6) of an external screw thread;

the stays (5, 6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other, or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or of the piston or plunger are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33);

the pitch of the stays of the screw thread is greater than the pitch at which self-locking occurs; and

an intermediary piece (11) is arranged between and in contact with a compression spring (8) and the plunger (3).

24. (New) The damping device according to claim 23, wherein said intermediary piece (11) is constituted by a stud (11) separate from said plunger (3), said stud (11) having a reduced diameter portion non-rotatably retained by an end of said compression spring (8) and an increased diameter portion resting against said plunger (3).

25. (New) The damping device according to claim 24, wherein a face of said stud (11) contacting said plunger (3) is roughened to increase frictional contact with a corresponding planar face of said plunger (3).

26. (New) The damping device according to claim 24, additionally comprising a cover (7) forming a bottom of the cylinder and comprising a step (12) arranged to non-rotatably support an end of said spring (8) opposite said stud (11).

27. (New) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein said intermediary piece (11) is constituted by a stud (11) separate from said plunger (3), said stud (11) having a reduced diameter portion non-rotatably retained by an end of said compression spring (8) and an increased diameter portion resting against said plunger (3).

28. (New) The damping device according to claim 27, wherein a face of said stud (11) contacting said plunger (3) is roughened to increase frictional contact with a corresponding planar face of said plunger (3).

29 (New) The damping device according to claim 27, additionally comprising a cover (7) forming a bottom of the cylinder and comprising a step (12) arranged to non-rotatably support an end of said spring (8) opposite said stud (11).